

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VIENTI 00032 100516Z  
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-05 /018 W  
-----103087 100522Z /21

R 100325Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC 8879  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
DEA HQS WASHDC  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0032

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BANGKOK PLEASE PASS DEA/RD ADDARIO

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SNAR PORS JA LA US  
SUBJECT: JAPANESE DISCUSS SUGIE MURDERS WITH EMBASSY

REF: A 77 VIENTIANE 1687, B 77 TOKYO 19984

1. A JAPANESE DELEGATION CALLED AT EMBASSY VIENTIANE JANUARY 9 TO INQUIRE ABOUT CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE MURDER OF JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY SEIICHI SUGIE AND HIS WIFE IN VIENTIANE, DECEMBER 25, 1977 (REF A).
2. THE DELEGATION INCLUDED SUMIO EDAMURA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE JAPANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO LAOS YASUO YANO, AND KAZUHIRO HORIKAWA, FIRST SECRETARY OF THE JAPANESE EMBASSY IN BANGKOK.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VIENTI 00032 100516Z

3. MR. EDAMURA SAID THAT HE HAD RECEIVED REPORTS FROM TOKYO INDICATING THAT MR. SUGIE HAD CONFIDED IN A U.S. EMBOFF REGARDING FEAR FOR HIS LIFE. AFTER EXPRESSING OUR SINCERE CONDOLENCES OVER THE DEATHS, WE INFORMED HIM OF INFORMATION CONTAINED IN REF A REGARDING SUGIE'S STATEMENTS TO EMBOFFS.

4. EDAMURA SAID THAT WHILE CONVINCED OF SOME LAO OFFICIALS' SINCERE DESIRE TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDERS, THE JAPANESE WERE NOT CONFIDENT OF LAO INVESTIGATIVE ABILITIES AND WERE CONSIDERING DISPATCHING THEIR OWN INVESTIGATORS FROM TOKYO.

5. YANO EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AS TO WHY SUGIE HAD INDICATED DEATH FEARS TO U.S. EMBOFF BUT NEVER MENTIONED THEM TO HIM. HE ALSO SAID THAT SUGIE WAS NOT DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE AND THAT SUGIE HAD NOT PLAYED ANY INSTRUMENTAL ROLE IN DISRUPTING ILLEGAL JAPANESE NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES IN LAOS. EDAMURA SAID THAT THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AT ALL CONVINCED THAT THERE NECESSARILY WAS A NARCOTICS ANGLE TO THE SUGIE MURDERS.

6. EDAMURA INDICATED THAT THE JAPANESE WERE AWARE OF WIDESPREAD RUMORS REGARDING POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF A JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN NAMED HARASAWA (REF B) IN ILLEGAL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING BUT INDICATED THAT JAPANESE AUTHORITIES WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT THE RUMORS WERE TRUE.

7. WE NOTED TO EDAMURA THAT DEA BANGKOK MIGHT BE ABLE TO BE HELPFUL REGARDING THE GENERAL NARCOTICS SITUATION IN LAOS. EDAMURA, ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATION, THANKED THE EMBASSY FOR ITS COOPERATION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VIENTI 00032 100516Z

THAT THE U.S. AND JAPANESE EMBASSIES WOULD CCONTINUE TO MAINTAIN CONTACT ON THE MATTER OF THE SUGIES' MURDER.

8. COMMENT: WE NOTE THE SEEMING DISCREPANCY BETWEEN EDAMURA'S VIEW THAT NARCOTICS WERE NOT NECESSARILY INVOLVED IN THE SUGIE MURDERS (PARA 5 ABOVE) AND THE FACT THAT THE JAPANESE NATIONAL POLICE IS INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER FROM THE STANDPOINT OF NARCOTICS (PARA 8, REF B). WHATEVER THE REASON FOR THIS, OUR JAPANESE VISITORS IMPRESSED US EITHER AS NOT BEING FULLY INFORMED (WHICH WE DOUBT) OR AS BEING ENGAGED IN A FISHING EXPEDITION WHOSE PURPOSES THEY THOUGHT WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY NOT BEING COMPLETELY STRAIGHTFORWARD WITH US. FOR EXAMPLE, THEY SPENT SOME MINUTES QUESTIONING ONE OF OUR EMBOFFS AS TO WHY HE HAD DINED TWICE SINCE CHRISTMAS AT A LOCAL JAPANESE RESTAURANT (ONE OF THE THREE PASSABLE EATING PLACES IN VIENTIANE) WHOSE OWNER HAD BEEN LINKED WITH HARASAWA.

ROBERTS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NARCOTICS, DEATHS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978VIENTI00032  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780014-0200  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780178/aaaacoit.tel  
**Line Count:** 113  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 219aeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 27 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3796807  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** JAPANESE DISCUSS SUGIE MURDERS WITH EMBASSY  
**TAGS:** SNAR, PORS, JA, LA, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/219aeae4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014